

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3423

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINR, PEPR, GR, US
SUBJ: GOG CONCERN ABOUT PUBLICATION OF CLASSIFIED USG DOCUMENTS

REF: ATHENS 3420

1. SECRETARY GENERAL THEODOROPOULOS CALLED ME TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY TO RAISE THE LEAKAGE OF THE DIA DOCUMENT (REFTEL) AND ITS PUBLICATION LOCALLY TODAY.
2. THEODOROPOULOS SAID THAT THE GOG HAD NO WISH TO EXACERBATE WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY AN EMBARRASSMENT TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND, THEREFORE, WOULD NOT VOLUNTEER ANY COMMENT PUBLICLY. ADDING THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF BEFORE MEETING WITH ME, THEODOROPOULOS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO AVOID COMMENT COULD BE BREACHED IF THERE WERE DEMANDS FROM THE PRESS OR INQUIRIES IN THE PARLIAMENT. HE WONDERED WHAT I COULD TELL HIM.
3. I SAID THAT TO MY REGRET THIS DOCUMENT APPEARED TO BE AUTHENTIC AND, LIKE THE PREVIOUS DISCLOSURES, RISKED PROVING IMPOSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY. WE WOULD BE ASKING WASHINGTON, AS WE HAD DONE PREVIOUSLY

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(REFTEL) FOR WHAT INFORMATION IT COULD PROVIDE AND THAT MEANWHILE WE WOULD RESTRICT COMMENT LOCALLY. I SAID I APPRECIATED THE GOG'S PREFERENCE FOR IGNORING IT PUBLICLY. I WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE TOOK SERIOUSLY THE HEMORRHAGING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WHICH COULD IMPAIR OUR RELATIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO OVERCOME OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS.

4. THEODOROPoulos SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TWO OTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DOCUMENT AS PUBLISHED:

A) THE GOG HAD NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER - AS IMPLIED IN THE DOCUMENT - TO LEAD THE GREEK PUBLIC "DOWN THE GARDEN PATH" ON THE MATTER OF ITS REENTRY INTO NATO:

B) THAT NATO REENTRY HAS NEVER BEEN - AS IS EXPLICITLY STATED - A "BARGAINING CHIP" FOR ITS ADMISSION TO THE EC.

5. I SAID SIMPLY I TOOK NOTE OF THESE POINTS.

6. COMMENT: THIS IS THE THIRD INSTANCE OF A LEAKED USG CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT APPEARING IN THE GREEK PRESS THIS YEAR. IT IS HAPPENING WITH EMBARRASSING REGULARITY, AND I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DAMAGE IT IS CAUSING TO OUR RELATIONS WITH GREECE. IN OPERATIONAL TERMS, IT COULD RESULT IN OUR SOURCES DRYING UP AS CONTACTS BEGIN TO QUESTION OUR RELIABILITY IN PROTECTING CONFIDENTIALITY. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THESE CONTINUED LEAKS DAMAGE OUR BROAD GOALS IN GREECE. THIS LATEST INCIDENT, FOR INSTANCE, CONTRIBUTES TO THE UNDERMINING OF THE GOG'S PUBLIC POSITION ON CONFIDENTIAL

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NATO REINTEGRATION AND IS HARMFUL TO THAT NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

7. I WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING WHERE WE ARE IN THE INVESTIGATION WHICH IS BEING CONDUCTED INTO SUCH LEAKS (STATE 93050), AS WELL AS WHAT MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO AVOID THEM IN THE FUTURE.
MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

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